

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

April 27, 2022

The Honorable Rosa DeLauro
Chair
Labor, HHS, and Education
Subcommittee
House Appropriations Committee
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Tom Cole
Ranking Member
Labor, HHS, and Education
Subcommittee
House Appropriations Committee
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable David Price
Chair
Transportation-HUD Subcommittee
House Appropriations Committee
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Mario Diaz-Balart
Ranking Member
Transportation-HUD Subcommittee
House Appropriations Committee
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Price, Chairwoman DeLauro, Ranking Member Diaz-Balart and Ranking Member Cole,

As you draft the Fiscal Year 2023 Department of Transportation, Housing and Urban Development, and related Agencies and the FY 2023 Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education funding bills, we respectfully request you provide \$90¹ million for the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's (CDC) Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention program and \$460² million for lead activities at the Department of Housing and Urban Development's (HUD) Office of Lead Hazard Control and Healthy Homes.

The CDC had previously estimated that 535,000 children aged one to five years old in the U.S. have blood levels above its then reference level at which the CDC recommends public health actions be initiated. The CDC recently lowered that reference level to 3.5 micrograms per deciliter. According to the CDC, this revision will better allow CDC, federal partners, and health departments to focus on children with the highest lead exposure compared to most children in that age range to reduce blood lead levels and identify sources of exposure.

Lead in older homes remains a persistent problem. HUD notes that lead-based paint in housing "presents one of the largest threats to the health, safety, and future productivity of America's

¹ The President's FY 2023 budget requested \$90 million, a \$49 million increase.

² The President's FY 2023 HUD budget proposed \$400 solely for this office lead activities and \$85 million to address lead-based paint and prevent and mitigate other housing-related hazards.

children, with over 29 million homes (44 percent of the homes built before 1978) having significant lead-based paint hazards.”

Both HUD and CDC play critical roles in preventing, identifying, and responding to lead contamination in our communities. Primary prevention—the removal of lead hazards from the environment before a child is exposed—is the most effective way to ensure that children do not experience the harmful effects of lead exposure. Blood lead screening tests and secondary prevention also remain an essential safety net for children who may be exposed to lead.

We appreciate your strong support for these programs over the past few years. A sustained commitment to federal lead prevention and mitigation efforts is critical if our country is to continue to make serious progress.

Additional funding for CDC will help add new grantees and make the program truly national. For example, with additional funding provided by the committee in FY 2021, CDC was able to fund 62 state and local childhood lead poisoning prevention programs, an increase from 53 programs the year before. Increased funding in FY 2023 will be used to expand critical lead poisoning activities to all states and territories to ensure all jurisdictions have sufficient resources to implement a comprehensive prevention program and help build capacity in 13 additional jurisdictions, and to improve processes to ensure children at higher risk of lead exposure and who are exposed to lead receive critical referrals and follow-up care, among other uses.

Properly funding the lead poisoning prevention programs at HUD and CDC is a cost-effective way to keep children healthy and save billions in lead poisoning-related medical, educational, and legal costs.

Thank you for your continued support of lead poisoning prevention and healthy housing. We greatly appreciate your leadership and consideration of this request.

Sincerely,



Gwen S. Moore
Member of Congress



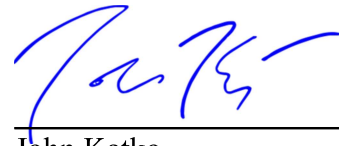
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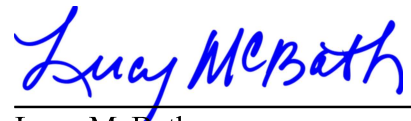
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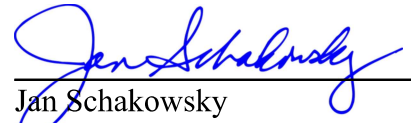
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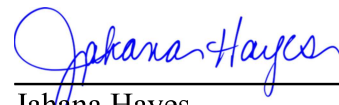
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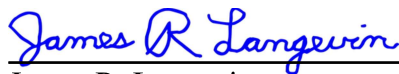
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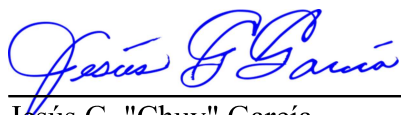
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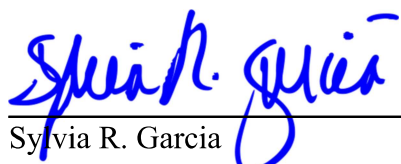
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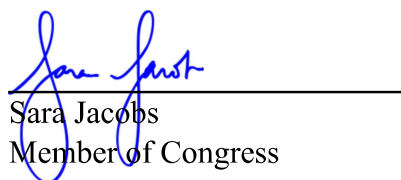
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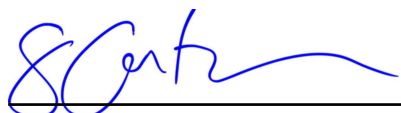
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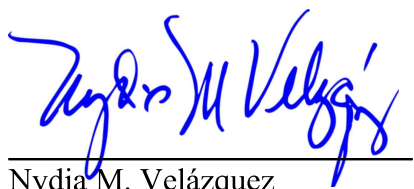
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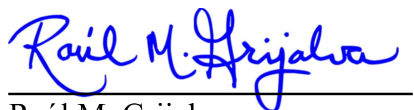
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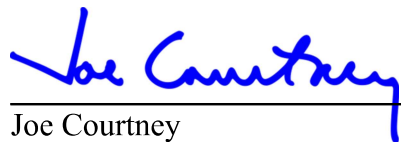
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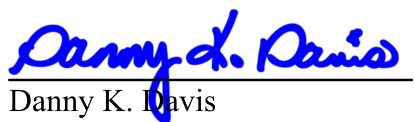
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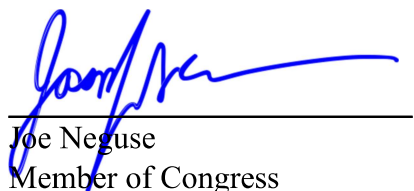
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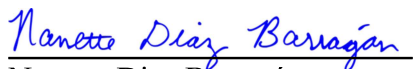
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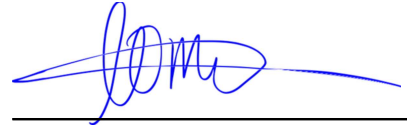
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Jackie Speier
Member of Congress



Maxine Waters
Chairwoman, Committee on
Financial Services



Ilhan Omar
Member of Congress



Kathleen M. Rice
Member of Congress



Donald M. Payne, Jr.
Member of Congress



Debbie Dingell
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André Carson
Member of Congress